



**Twenty Days**

**of Prayer**



**Towards Vision Refreshment for Bethel Church**

**Jan. 21 – Feb. 9, 2018**

**Part I--God’s Love**

***Day 1: Sun. Jan. 21***

Scripture: Isaiah 55

Read through this passage

twice—slowly. Linger over any phrase, verse or image that especially grabs your attention. Pray using that phrase, verse, image—asking the Spirit to show you what God is trying to tell you by it.

*Phrase, verse, image:*

***Day 2: Mon. Jan 22***

Scripture: Psalm 136

Read through this Psalm. Take note of the list of things the psalmist praises God for doing in the lives of the Israelites. Make a list of 5 things God has done in your life and 5 things He has done in our church which demonstrate that “his love endures forever”. Then recite each item with “his love endures forever” to complete your prayer.

*5 things God has done for me:*

*5 things God has done for/in our church:*

***Day 3: Tues. Jan 23***

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

Read through this passage. After you’ve read through it once, read through it again—but imagine that Paul is praying this for you. So, for every “you”, insert your name. Then, pray it again, but now you are the “I” and are praying it on behalf of Bethel Church. So, insert, “Bethel Church” in place of “you”.

***Day 4: Wed. Jan 24***

Scripture: John 17: 20-26

Read through this passage. Write down ways you and our congregation demonstrate the following:

* Unity
* Christ’s glory & love

Now, use the passage to pray for our church.

***Day 5: Thurs. Jan 25***

Scripture: Psalm 100

Read through the passage twice—slowly. As your prayer, practice the discipline of thanksgiving. Write 15 things in your personal life that you are thankful for. Write 15 things in our church that you are thankful for. Be specific.

*15 Things in My Life:*

*15 Things in Our Church:*

**Part II—Convicting Work of Holy Spirit**

***Day 6: Fri. Jan 26***

Scripture: Psalm 32

Read through the passage slowly. Read through it a second time and linger over any phrases or images that grab your attention. Now, pray that you may be open to the Holy Spirit’s conviction. Take a time of silent prayer (aim for 3-5 minutes) as you revisit the psalm’s images/ phrases in your mind. After the silence, jot down anything you feel the Spirit might be indicating to you. (If nothing—that’s fine.)

*Phrase, verse, image:*

*Additional Thoughts:*

***Day 7: Sat. Jan 27***

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-17

Read through the passage once. Try to remember a time when you did something wrong and had to ask for forgiveness. How did you feel before asking? How did you feel afterwards? Read the passage a second time and offer it as your prayer.

***Day 8: Sun. Jan 28***

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Read the passage through once. Ask the Spirit to show you who you need to forgive in your life. Read through the passage a second time. Pray that the Spirit may bring forgiveness and healing to any broken relationships within Bethel Church. If you know of any, pray for those people specifically.

***Day 9: Mon. Jan 29***

Scripture: 1 John 1:5-2:2

Read through this passage. Where in your life are you walking in darkness? Pray that the Spirit may shed light into the dark places of your heart. Read through the passage again. Where in our church life, as a congregation, are we walking in darkness? Pray that the church may come back to the light, in repentance, and be transformed into children of the light.

***Day 10: Tues. Jan 30***

Scripture: Revelation 3:14-18

Read through the passage. How is your faith neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm? In what ways have you relied on your own resources? Read through the passage again—keeping in mind Bethel Church. How are we lukewarm as a congregation? How do we rely too much on our own resources so that we don’t rely on God? Pray that God may turn the spiritual temperature of your life and of Bethel Church up!

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**Stories of Jesus**

***Day 11: Wed. Jan 31***

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Read the passage. Read through it again slowly a second time. What phrase, verse or image especially grabs your attention? Read through it again a third time. What God be saying to you today through this passage? And what might God be saying to our church through this passage in light of current circumstances? Pray in light of your conclusions and insights. And if nothing specifically comes to mind, pray that the church may not be lead into temptation, but delivered from evil.

Phrase, verse, image:

Additional thoughts:

***Day 12: Thur. Feb 1***

Scripture: Luke 5:17-25

Read the passage. What so you find surprising about this passage? Read the passage again. In it the man has a presenting problem—his paralysis. However, Jesus sees his deeper problem—sin. Take time to pray that in your life and in the life of our congregation we may not be distracted by presenting problems, but may see where we are really broken. As you pray, if anything area of deeper healing—for yourself or the congregation—comes to mind, jot it down.

*Areas for deeper healing:*

***Day 13: Fri. Feb 2***

Scripture: John 10:11-18

Read through this passage. What kind of shepherd is Jesus? How do you need him to shepherd your life today? Pray about that. Read through the passage again. As a leader in the church, Jesus calls you to shepherd his people. What kind of shepherding does our church currently need? Which sheep, in particular, is God bringing to mind for you to pray for? Now, pray for those people and for the leaders shepherding our church.

***Day 14: Sat. Feb 3***

Scripture: Mark 6:30-44

Read through the passage slowly. Read it again. What especially grabs your attention? Notice that Jesus has compassion on the crowd and recognizes their need. What does our congregation need most at this time? Pray that the leaders—Council & staff—may have compassion on the congregation and may be able to recognize their needs.

***Day 15: Sun. Feb 4***

Scripture: Luke 15:1-7

Read the passage. Who in your life is a lost sheep needing to be found and brought “home”? Pray for that person. Read the passage again. How as a congregation can we seek out the lost sheep? Who are some of the lost sheep that come to mind? Take time and pray for our congregation in seeking the lost and for those who need to be brought home.

**Stories of the Church**

***Day 16: Mon. Feb 5***

Scripture: Acts 1:4-7; 2:1-4

Read through the two passages. Reflect on how you see the Spirit at work in your life—bringing you to faith, empowering you to share the gospel, leading in the church. Reflect on times you’ve seen or experienced the Holy Spirit at work in or through the church. Pray, thanking God for the work and power of the Spirit—and pray that Bethel Church may be even more open to the Spirit’s guidance and power.

***Day 17: Tues. Feb 6***

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Read through the passage. List the characteristics and practices of the early church. How does our church incorporate some of these same characteristics & practices (even though they may look a little different in our context)? Read through the passage again. Use it as a prayer for our church.

***Day 18: Wed. Feb 7***

Scripture: Acts 15:36-41

Read through the passage. Read through it slowly a second time. What is your reaction to the passage? What disagreements have you recently been in that you need to bring before God? Read through the passage a third time. Pray for the church—for healing from past disagreements and for the Spirit’s power to work through future disagreements.

***Day 19: Thur. Feb 8***

Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11

Read through the passage. Describe Paul’s feelings for the Philippian church. What is he particularly thankful for? Read through the passage again. In what ways are you thankful for Bethel Church? Write a paragraph of thanksgiving concerning our congregation. Pray Bethel Church, using the passage and your paragraph. (next page)

*Your Paragraph of Thanksgiving for Bethel Church:*

**Discerning the Way forward**

***Day 20: Fri. Feb 9***

Scripture: Numbers 6:22-27

Read through this passage. Picture a sunny day where you enjoyed basking in the sunlight. Now, experience this as the love of God in your life. Basking in God’s love, and in preparation for the congregational Discovery Retreat this evening and tomorrow—make these petitions part of your prayer time:

* That we will clearly discern where God is at work in our congregation. Ask the Lord to use the process to direct us toward maximum “spiritual effectiveness” in ministry.
* That good results may come from this process.

Conclude by jotting down some thoughts for tonight’s gathering. Turn to the passage again, and pray the blessing on behalf of our congregation.